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A method and apparatus for capturing the visual scenes of an incident a number of seconds before, during and after an incident has occurred involving land, sea and air based transportation systems, including a traffic monitoring system. The apparatus can provide additional functionality of capturing the activities of the operator of a transportation system as well as the sound waves of the environment before, during and after an incident to match the video scene has occurred. The apparatus includes a control unit for overall operational control, a memory unit for temporary storage, an image capturing unit for capturing visual scenes, a digital sensor for triggering an automatic preservation of captured scenes, a digital sound recorder for capturing sound waves matching the recorded images, and a persistent storage unit for preserving captured scenes and sound waves. The method and apparatus is used for aftermath analysis of events as well as for documentation purposes.--

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